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SECURITY INFORMATION

20 APRIL 1953

Supplement to Surveys
of USSR, Far East Broadcasts

FOREIGN RADIO REACTION TO
PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S SPEECH OF 16 APRIL
BEFORE
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

W A R N I N G

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Reacting with almost unprecedented speed, PRAVDA for Apr. 17 carries a TASS report from New York on President Eisenhower's speech to the society of newspaper editors. The report begins by affirming that, although Eisenhower "placed the blame for the international situation" on Soviet policy, "no facts were given to prove this." It then turns to Eisenhower's "own program for the settlement of all international problems," and quotes the President's statement that "the U.S. is ready to take upon herself a just share." It says, however, that "the question of China and the restoration of its national rights, as well as the question of the restoration of Germany's unity in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, were completely bypassed." It concluded by quoting the President's five proposals, including the "enforcement of all these agreed limitations and prohibitions by adequate safeguards, including a practical inspection under the United Nations." There has been (as of Apr. 20) no further comment from the Moscow radio, although limited distribution was given on the Home Service and in foreign-language broadcasts to the fact that Mr. Churchill in Glasgow "supported" the President's speech.

Satellite Home Service reaction to the address closely followed the Soviet pattern, with most transmitters carrying the TASS account at least once on Friday and Saturday. An article from the Communist newspaper ABEND, carried by the Vienna radio's "Russian Hour" program, pointed out that, while the President failed to mention the far-reaching Chinese-Korean "compromise proposals" for a settlement in Korea, failed to put forward any concrete programs for disarmament, and failed to give any sign that his Government was willing to end the "unnatural state of affairs in the United Nations," under which 450 million Chinese people remain deprived of their rights, his speech was markedly different from previous statements in that he devoted a substantial part of it to peace and omitted the "customary threats and insults against the Soviet Union."

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ABEND also noted the President's failure to put forth positive proposals aimed at settling the German problem or the Austrian Treaty question, and declared that his statement on "ending the unnatural division of Eastern Europe" could only arouse "surprise and dismay." Czech and Polish news agency reports noted various "omissions" and quoted criticism by British Labor Party M.P.'s.

In Austria, today's (Apr. 20) VOLKSSTIMME states that the Eisenhower speech does not contain any concrete contribution of the U.S. to the cause of understanding, and the Communist press in Vienna speaks increasingly of the unification of Germany and the fact that at the current East-West trade conferences in Geneva the countries of the Eastern Bloc are submitting a larger and more comprehensive list of goods than for a long time. The Austrian Foreign Minister today is quoted as saying that the Soviet peace overtures were sincere and that the President's last speech should lead to a high-plane meeting.

On Friday, the speech was the main topic of West German commentators, who generally greeted it favorably. However, Reinhard Gerdes on the Baden-Baden radio, after calling the speech a "test blow" to probe Russia's real intentions, asked what the U.S. was ready to give in exchange, and expressed a fear that the "maximum demands" presented might cool off the Moscow "peace seedlings." German Social Democrat Chairman Ollenhauer noted that the speech made plain that the German issue is an essential point in any future discussions, and he added that it "shows clearly that the U.S. is preparing for negotiations with the Soviet Union." He also called suggestion of the reconstruction fund "one of the most positive contributions of the democratic countries for security and peace in the world." The Social Democrats later passed a resolution welcoming the fact that

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the speech stressed the reunification of Germany. On Saturday, the Federal Government's BULLETIN in Bonn called the speech a "document" which by far exceeds tactical strategems and can serve as a basis for a general, world-wide political reorientation.

In Paris, LE MONDE notes that there has been a change in tone in Washington since Stalin's death "as a result of a change in tone on the part of the Kremlin following Stalin's death." The paper points out that certain passages of the President's speech are "hard to accept" for the Soviet leaders, such as the demand that East European peoples be free in their alliances and choices of Government. L'HUMANITE of Apr. 18 asserts that the Eisenhower declaration is inspired by the American desire for world domination and examines this in detail with heavy sarcasm.

Italian and Greek papers praise the "logic and sincerity" of the speech; the press in Stockholm and Helsinki point out that the Eisenhower proposals will be received with a hearty response from all countries outside the Iron Curtain, and "the world now awaits the next move from the Kremlin." The Hilversum radio says that the Netherlands Government is "in complete agreement" with the speech.

In London, Government leaders "showered high praise" on the bid "for positive action to secure peace," but left-wing Laborites were highly critical, Aneurin Bevan stating that "if you want conciliation, you don't demand everything and give nothing."

The Belgrade BORBA says that the speech is a "sign of the realistic view of the international situation," while POLITIKA says that, "unfortunately, Eisenhower's reaction that he will take Moscow's moves at their face value until

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they prove to be insincere was covered up by a series of commentaries in the American papers which gave the impression that they wanted to find reasons for which Moscow's offers must be rejected in advance."

There has been little or no comment from Arab transmitters. Jordan commentator Hammad did note on Apr. 19 that the Eisenhower proposals "will be a good test of the sincerity of the latest Soviet moves."

In the Far East, there has been little comment from sources other than Nationalist China and Japan. The Peking radio on Apr. 18 did carry the TASS report of the speech, but with no comment. The CHINA NEWS of Apr. 20 is quoted as saying that Nationalist "official quarters" at Taipei are covertly pleased at lack of references to China in the speech because China is not bound either way and is free to launch a counteroffensive on the mainland irrespective of any "peace" agreement between the West and the Soviets. Korean Ambassador in Taipei Kim Hong Il says that a buffer state should be established in Manchuria to prevent further Communist Chinese attacks on Korea, and he calls the Eisenhower formula a "sixth condition" in addition to the five advanced by Syngman Rhee.

Japanese financial circles are said to have praised the speech, and they urge further Japanese efforts to achieve a self-supporting economy, although they see no immediate easing of the international tension which would upset world prices. The pro-Nationalist Hong Kong CHI YAN DAILY calls the speech a "passive resistance" to the Soviet peace offensive, and holds the President "partially responsible" for world disturbances. Premier Yoshida called upon Japan to "firmly establish democracy" and indicated his strong approval of the speech. Japanese left-wing Socialists were inspired to send "peace letters" to the Big Five.

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The TIMES OF INDIA says that the issue of peace would have been put in better perspective if something had been said of the "denial of democratic rights to millions of Asians and Africans." The DELHI EXPRESS notes that some countries are impressed by Malenkov's peaceful deeds, but "President Eisenhower is still unconvinced."

No other monitored comment has been heard from the Middle or Far East and, so far, there has been no Latin American comment monitored.

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